

is inadequate in its present form.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now before I introduce the next speaker, I'd like to make two announcements. Underneath the north balcony, friends of Senator Cope and Senator DeCamp, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Fitch and family from O'Neill, Dr. and Mrs. M.H. Fitch from Kearney and family, and Jan Van Rompaey from Markhoven, Belgium and I think one of the Fitch sons is also with him. Would you folks please rise so we can say hello to you? Underneath the south balcony it's my pleasure to present Chad Parson from Lincoln who is a guest of Senator Lewis. Where are you? Would you please stand? There you are. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'm not going to talk about dollar amounts at this point and I may not during the discussion of the bill, because I think that there are different factions in the Legislature who have an idea of what the dollar amount should be, but to try to put in perspective what is wrong with the judicial system in Nebraska, not with reference to their opinions, but trying to establish a pay plan or pay categories you should realize that there was not a day that arrived when an attempt was made to create a statewide judiciary. A portion developed over here to the right...a portion to the left, a portion to the front, a portion to the back, and they developed without having reference to each other. Then a court reform attempt was made where they would blend all of these stages or levels of the judiciary at their different stages and levels of development and come up with a unified court system, and I use the term unified to indicate that they, from now on or at that point on, were to be considered as a whole. Part of the difficulty now arises because the county judges were not really judges. The associate judges were even less...the associate county judges were even less nonjudges than the county judges when by law or statute changes were wrought on paper without necessarily bringing about changes in the nature of the judge's office or the judge's duties, then I think problems develop when you try to equate what one judge is doing with what another is doing for the purpose of setting a salary level. In three of the counties they have a supplement. It's not exactly a bounty. It's a situation where these counties apparently were talked to by the judges and persuaded to give more money in these counties to the judges than was set by statute at the salary level. Now the judiciary is